

November 25, 2001

Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530-0001
Fax 202-307-1454 or 202 616-9937

Microsoft Settlement

Dear Renata B. Hesse:

Attached please find a comment to the proposed settlement. If there are any questions, please contact me at 559 284-2704 or e-mail me at pvg1@hotmail.com.

Thank you,

Pete van Gilluwe
43275 Kaweah River Drive
Three Rivers, CA 93271

Comments on the Proposed Settlement between the United States and Microsoft

I have read the details of the proposed settlement and note that only 14% of students in schools receive any benefit from this proposed settlement.

As an technology coordinator in a small K-8 school in Central California, it is my opinion that all students, whether disadvantaged or not, have the same opportunities to learn and succeed once they enter a public school. In reality, they shed their socio-economic status at the school gate and are treated like all other students.

There are currently many federal (and state) programs that give assistance to 'disadvantaged' schools, including Title 1/2/4/6 funds, free and reduced rate breakfasts and lunches, EIA funds, SIP funds, as well as the E-Rate program and others. Many private foundations, such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Packard Foundation give funds to 'disadvantaged' schools and programs.

Many schools, both disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged have technology needs that are not met by any federal or local grant, particularly in the software area. Schools that have small numbers or no students in the 'disadvantaged' category do not receive any special funding that puts them ahead of other schools, and in fact, many 'non-disadvantaged' schools are falling behind in the technology area due to programs like E-Rate.

My recommendation regarding this settlement is to request that the Microsoft Company institute an ongoing program to give operating systems, educational and productivity software and use licenses to all K-12 schools, thus giving all students the tools needed to progress and succeed in the world of technology. This is a win-win answer for students, schools and the marketplace.

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